Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,  
Foreign Minister Burkhalter,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recent wave of terrorist attacks and threats for more to come have strengthened our resolve to move towards closer and more effective co-operation in countering violent extremism and terrorism. In the longer term, I am convinced that the best antidote to violent extremism and terrorism is for us to live up to our commitments to create and sustain democratic and peaceful societies under the rule of law – inclusive societies that ensure human rights and dignity, shared security and prosperity for all. So the challenge we face is inextricably linked to delivering on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s comprehensive Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism can play a critical role in galvanizing our efforts to support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I particularly welcome the emphasis that the plan places on enhancing efforts at the regional level. The OSCE has fully embraced its role as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, including in the field of preventing violent extremism. Last December, at our Ministerial Council in Belgrade, the OSCE adopted a Ministerial Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism. It identifies a number of good practices, also reflected in the UN Plan of Action.
For nearly 10 years, the OSCE has been raising awareness and promoting the exchange of good practices on countering incitement to hate and violence, while upholding freedom of expression and freedom of the media. We are also working hard to strengthen our contribution in partnership with the United Nations, regional organizations, OSCE Partners for Co-operation and many others. For example, the OSCE drafted *good practices on women in countering violent extremism*, which the Global Counterterrorism Forum adopted last September and have since been recognised by UN Security Council resolution 2242 (2015).

The OSCE is assisting several of our participating States to develop and implement comprehensive national strategies and action plans to counter violent extremism and terrorism. And recently we launched several innovative projects, including social media training for youth on countering violent extremist narratives; table-top exercises to promote inter-agency co-ordination; and training for frontline police officers. We also launched a “*Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism*” initiative – LIVE – to build capacity at the grassroots level by empowering local civil society leaders to speak up and mobilize their community against violent extremism.

All these activities are contributing to our social media campaign, “*OSCE united in countering violent extremism*” (#UnitedCVE), which we launched last year at an OSCE Security Days event on preventing violent extremism that some of you attended. The campaign reached over 4.5 million people, reinforcing the global consensus against violent extremism.

The OSCE is an inclusive platform for action-oriented discussion, and we will continue to work towards building coalitions for joint activities within the wider framework of the global agenda to prevent violent extremism and fight terrorism. We look forward to intensifying our dialogue with all of you.

Thank you.